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SUBSIDIARY BODY FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE
Second session
Geneva, 27 February - 4 March 1996
Item 2 (a) of the provisional agenda

PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND ANNOTATIONS

Note by the Executive Secretary

Addendum

I. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Opening of the session

1. The second session of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) will be opened by the Chairman at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, 27 February 1996 in conference room XX.

2. Organizational matters

(a) Adoption of the agenda

2. The provisional agenda for the second session of the SBSTA is presented for adoption (see FCCC/SBSTA/1996/1).

(b) Organization of the work of the session

(i) Documentation

3. A list of documents relating to the provisional agenda, as well as other documents available at the session, is contained in annex I. Other documents may be made available during the session.

(ii) Schedule

4. During the sessional period 27 February to 4 March, a new system of scheduling the meetings of the SBSTA and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) will be tried out. Formal meetings of the SBSTA will be held in the mornings and those of the SBI will take place in the afternoons. Furthermore, each subsidiary body will be able to hold informal meetings during the half of the day in which it will not have formal meetings.

5. The scheduling of meetings for the SBSTA session will be based on the availability of facilities during normal working hours. Formal meetings with interpretation will be held in the mornings from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and informal meetings (working, contact or subgroups or other consultations) may be held in the afternoons from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. with interpretation. However, interpretation facilities will not be available in the afternoon of 28 February and 4 March when they will be reserved for the informal workshops of the Ad Hoc Group on the Berlin Mandate (AGBM). There will also be some facilities for informal meetings without interpretation. Delegations are urged to use these facilities fully by starting all meetings promptly at the scheduled time. A suggested approach to the organization of work is contained in annex II. In the event that the items scheduled for a particular day are completed ahead of time, other items may be taken up.

(iii) SBSTA recommendations for action by the Conference of the Parties at its second session (COP 2)

6. At its third session, the SBSTA must agree on a report to COP 2, including recommendations for action by the COP. Therefore it is proposed that priority consideration be given at the current session to items that will give rise to such recommendations. Where relevant, the SBSTA should ensure that its recommendations are consistent with those of the SBI. Arrangements for COP 2 are being considered by the SBI at its second session under item 8 of its provisional agenda. On that item, the SBI has before it document FCCC/SBI/1996/8, including possible elements for a provisional agenda for the session. The following list of points for priority consideration by the SBSTA is drawn from those agenda elements. For other matters on which the SBSTA will not provide the COP with recommendations for action, it will be necessary to provide a progress report for the COP to consider and to give guidance on further work.

- Implementation of the commitments in Article 4 of the Convention and of the related decisions of COP 1, including those regarding the development and the transfer of technologies

- Decisions to advance the Convention process:

(a) Communications by Parties

(i) Methodological questions
(ii) Communications from Annex I Parties: guidelines
(iii) Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention: guidelines

(b) Activities implemented jointly under the pilot phase

(c) Inventory and assessment of technologies: further work

(d) Intergovernmental technical advisory panel(s)

(e) Cooperation with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)

3. Establishment of intergovernmental technical advisory panel(s)

7. At its first session, the SBSTA invited Parties to submit to the secretariat their views on the establishment of intergovernmental technical advisory panels. Submissions received by 30 October 1995 are contained in documents FCCC/SBSTA/1995/MISC.3 and Add.1.

8. The SBSTA also requested its Chairman to continue his consultations on the establishment of the panels, particularly during the week of the October/November session of the AGBM. The report of the Chairman on his consultations is before the session in document FCCC/SBSTA/1996/2, which contains a draft decision and programme of work for consideration and adoption by the SBSTA.

4. Scientific assessments

(a) Consideration of the Second Assessment Report (SAR) of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)

9. The IPCC adopted its Second Assessment Report, entitled "Climate Change 1995: IPCC Second Report", at its eleventh plenary session in Rome in December 1995. The SBSTA will have before it the IPCC Assessment Synthesis of scientific-technical information relevant to interpreting Article 2 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and the three Summaries for Policymakers prepared by the three IPCC Working

Groups. The four published volumes of the Second Assessment Report, will comprise the following:

Volume 1	The IPCC Assessment Synthesis of Scientific-Technical Information Relevant to Interpreting Article 2 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
Volume 2	The Science of Climate Change: Contribution of Working Group I of the IPCC
Volume 3	Scientific-Technical Analyses of Impacts, Adaptations and Mitigation of Climate Change: Contribution of Working Group II of the IPCC
Volume 4	The Economic and Social Dimensions of Climate Change: Contribution of Working Group III of the IPCC

The Chairman of the IPCC will present the Second Assessment Report to the SBSTA. The SBSTA will also have before it a note prepared by the secretariat (FCCC/SBSTA/1996/7 and Adds. 1, 2 and 3) to facilitate a preliminary discussion of the Second Assessment Report. The note will also contain proposals for initial consideration by the SBSTA. The SBSTA may, *inter alia*, wish to provide any related conclusions or advice to the AGBM on those aspects of the Second Assessment Report that are relevant to the work of that body (see FCCC/AGBM/1995/2, para. 19 (j)).

(b) Cooperation with the IPCC

10. The first session of the SBSTA requested its Bureau to hold joint meetings with the Officers of the IPCC with a view to identifying short- and long-term requirements (FCCC/SBSTA/1995/3, para. 24 (c)). The Chairman of the SBSTA will report on the outcome of the first of such meetings which was held in Geneva in October 1995. He will also report on the conclusions of the second meeting of the Joint Working Group which is scheduled to be held on 25 February 1996; this meeting will take into account the decisions taken by the IPCC during its eleventh session held in December 1995. The Chairman of the IPCC will also contribute to this agenda item. The SBSTA will also have before it a note prepared by the secretariat which contains proposals for possible action by the SBSTA (FCCC/SBSTA/1996/6).

5. National communications

(a) Communications from Parties included in Annex I to the Convention

(i) Progress report on in-depth reviews

11. The SBSTA, at its first session, agreed that the consideration of in-depth reviews would be a standing item on its agenda. The SBSTA will have before it a brief progress report on the status of in-depth reviews undertaken to date (FCCC/SB/1996/2); it may wish to take note of this report.

12. A number of in-depth review reports containing thorough and comprehensive technical assessments of the implementation of the Convention commitments are available in the original language under the symbol FCCC/IDR.1/(country code). Summaries of these reports are being made available in all official languages of the United Nations under the symbol FCCC/IDR.1(SUM)/(country code). Since this is the first occasion that a number of these reports are available, the SBSTA is invited to consider the format, scope and approaches taken in these reports and, if necessary, to give guidance to the review teams and the secretariat to improve the form and substance of these reports. In accordance with the division of labour with the SBI, endorsed at the first session of the SBSTA, the meeting may wish to focus its discussion on technical issues related to the optimal utilization of information contained in these reports for the purposes of the Convention. The SBSTA may also wish to offer initial conclusions or advice to the AGBM on technical aspects of the communications, on the basis of the in-depth review reports and/or the document referred to in the following subsection (see also FCCC/AGBM/1995/2, para. 19 (k)).

(ii) Elements of the second compilation and synthesis report (technical aspects)

13. The SBSTA, at its first session, requested the secretariat to present the first elements of the synthesis report of in-depth reviews (FCCC/SBSTA/1995/3, para. 33 (c)). This document will be available under the symbol FCCC/SB/1996/1 and Add. 1. The SBSTA may take note of the provisional data presented, and may wish to provide guidance to the secretariat as to the possible structure and presentation of the synthesis report to be submitted to the SBSTA at its third session, as a basis for conclusions or advice to COP 2.

(iii) Report on guidelines for the preparation of communications

14. Decision 3/CP.1* requested the secretariat to prepare a report on the guidelines for the preparation of first communications by Annex I Parties before COP 2. The SBSTA, at its first session, decided to consider the further development of guidelines for the preparation of national communications from Annex I Parties at its second and later sessions. The

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* For decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its first session, see document FCCC/CP/1995/7/Add.1.

SBSTA may wish to recommend revisions to the guidelines for the preparation of future communications by Annex I Parties, taking into account any advice that the SBI would give on this matter, and request the secretariat to prepare a document containing revisions for consideration at its third session. Subsequent to that consideration, a proposal to COP 2 for the adoption of revised guidelines could be prepared. A note outlining the present status of the guidelines is before the session (FCCC/SBSTA/1996/3). The document on the transfer of technology by Annex II Parties is also relevant for consideration of guidelines; the SBI may give guidance in this respect (see FCCC/SBI/1996/5).

(b) Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention: issues related to the preparation of communications

15. The COP, at its first session, by its decision 8/CP.1 on first communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention, requested the subsidiary bodies to develop, for consideration by COP 2, recommendations on guidelines for the preparation of national communications from non-Annex I Parties and proposals for the process to consider these communications. The programme of work of these bodies, as discussed at their first sessions, allocates responsibility for taking the lead to the SBSTA with regard to recommendations on guidelines for the communications and to the SBI with regard to the process for considering the communications (FCCC/SBSTA/1995/2, paras. 23-27; FCCC/SBI/1995/2, paras. 9-13; FCCC/SB/1995/INF.1, para. 2). The SBSTA, at its first session, requested the secretariat to prepare, for consideration at its second session, recommendations on guidelines for the preparation of national communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention, taking into account the views expressed by the Parties and the papers submitted by the Parties, including document A/AC.237/MISC.40 (FCCC/SBSTA/1995/3, para. 35 (a)). At the second session of the AGBM, Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention expressed readiness to advance the preparation of their initial communications taking into account Article 4.3, 4.5 and 4.7 of the Convention and paragraph 2 (b) of decision 1/CP.1, in order to supplement their sustainable development (FCCC/AGBM/1995/7, para. 42).

16. A workshop on the preparation of national communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention, which is being convened by the Group of 77 and China, will be held on Monday, 26 February. The workshop is being held in response to a request from the AGBM. Conclusions of the workshop will be made available as an input to item 5 (b) of the provisional agenda.

17. The SBSTA will have before it draft recommendations drawn up by the secretariat elaborating on issues related to the preparation, compilation and consideration of the communications from Parties not included in Annex I (FCCC/SB/1996/3). The SBSTA will also be informed of any relevant conclusions of the workshop on national communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention.

18. The SBSTA is invited to consider these inputs with a view to adopting recommendations to COP 2 regarding guidelines for communications from non-Annex I

Parties, which will be taken into account by the SBI when discussing the facilitation of the preparation of such communications and the process for their consideration.

6. Activities implemented jointly under the pilot phase

19. The COP, at its first session, by its decision 5/CP.1, decided that the SBSTA would, in coordination with the SBI, establish a framework for reporting, in a transparent, well defined and credible fashion, on the possible global benefits and the national economic, social and environmental impacts as well as any practical experience gained or technical difficulties encountered in activities implemented jointly under the pilot phase. The SBSTA, at its second session, is expected to develop the framework for reporting and, should it complete its work early enough in the session, the SBI could take up the issue and provide its views on the framework to the SBSTA. The SBSTA will have before it a compilation of views submitted by delegations (FCCC/SBSTA/1996/MISC.1) as well as a note by the secretariat on an approach to the framework for reporting (FCCC/SBSTA/1996/5).

7. Technology inventory and assessment

20. The COP, at its first session, by its decision 13/CP.1, requested the secretariat to collect information from relevant sources and to prepare an inventory and assessment of environmentally sound and economically viable technologies and know-how conducive to mitigating and adapting to climate change. The SBSTA will have an initial report (FCCC/SBSTA/1996/4) prepared by the secretariat on this subject. The SBSTA is invited to consider the report and provide the secretariat with guidance concerning future work. The initial report together with any conclusions of the SBSTA will also be conveyed to the AGBM in accordance with the request of the first session of the AGBM (FCCC/AGBM/1995/2, para. 19 (l)).

8. Workshop on mechanisms for inputs by non-governmental organizations

21. In view of the heavy schedule for the sessional period, and taking into account a preference expressed by a large number of non-governmental organizations, this workshop will be held on 2 March 1996. Since there will be insufficient time to prepare a written report on the workshop, an oral report will be presented to the SBSTA on 4 March. The report on the workshop will be submitted to the third session of the SBSTA.

9. Longer term activities

22. The SBSTA is to develop proposals on its longer term activities and organizational arrangements; these proposals are to be reported to COP 2.

23. One of the challenges that will face the SBSTA after COP 2 is that its list of activities can no longer be fully handled at one session. The establishment of an intergovernmental technical advisory panel would modify this problem but not solve it, since the SBSTA would still have to consider the advice and reports provided by that panel. A possible approach to meet this challenge, in addition to being more selective in putting items on the agenda of each session, would be to present agenda items for each session in three categories:

(a) Items to be discussed in substance;

(b) Items to be discussed briefly, for example, with the aim of giving guidance to the panel or to the secretariat;

(c) Items on which progress will be noted.

An example of the second category is item 5 (a) of this provisional agenda, which could be taken up in substance at the third session on the basis of guidance given at the present session.

24. If this general approach is acceptable, the secretariat will further elaborate on it, taking into account progress made at this session and consulting the Chairman and officers of the SBSTA.

25. The Chairman may, on 4 March, subsequent to the meeting of the Bureau of the COP on 2 March, provide an oral report on any further decisions of that Bureau relating to the schedule of meetings under the Convention in 1996 and 1997. This schedule will be relevant for the capacity of the secretariat to respond in time to requests from the Convention bodies.

10. Report of the session

26. The relatively short duration of the session may affect the extent to which a draft text of the report on the work of the session could be available at the end of the session. The SBSTA may wish to adopt decisions or texts of substantive conclusions under the relevant items and sub-items of the agenda and, as at the first session, authorize the Rapporteur to complete the report after the session, under the guidance of the Chairman and with the assistance of the secretariat. While every effort will be made to have conclusions available in all languages, this can only be possible if sufficient time is available for translation.

Annex I

LIST OF DOCUMENTS FOR THE SECOND SESSION OF THE SUBSIDIARY BODY FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE

Documents prepared for the session

FCCC/SBSTA/1996/1	Provisional agenda
FCCC/SBSTA/1996/1/Add.1	Annotations to the provisional agenda
FCCC/SBSTA/1996/2	Establishment of intergovernmental technical advisory panel(s): report by the Chairman on his informal consultations
FCCC/SBSTA/1996/3	Communications from Parties included in Annex I to the Convention: report on the guidelines for the preparation of first communications by Annex I Parties
FCCC/SBSTA/1996/4	Technology inventory and assessment: initial report on an inventory and assessment of technologies to mitigate and adapt to climate change
FCCC/SBSTA/1996/4/Add.1	Technology inventory and assessment: initial report on an inventory and assessment of technologies to mitigate and adapt to climate change - technology inventory database
FCCC/SBSTA/1996/5	Activities implemented jointly under the pilot phase: options for reporting guidelines
FCCC/SBSTA/1996/6	Cooperation with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
FCCC/SBSTA/1996/7	Scientific assessments: consideration of the Second Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

FCCC/SBSTA/1996/7/Add.1	Scientific assessments: consideration of the Second Assessment Report of IPCC. The science of climate change: contribution of Working Group I of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
FCCC/SBSTA/1996/7/Add.2	Scientific assessments: consideration of the Second Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Scientific-technical analyses of impacts, adaptations and mitigations of climate change: contribution of Working Group II of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
FCCC/SBSTA/1996/7/Add.3	Scientific assessments: consideration of the Second Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. The economic and social dimension of climate change: contribution of Working Group III of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
FCCC/SBSTA/1996/MISC.1	Activities implemented jointly under the pilot phase: views from Parties on a framework for reporting
FCCC/SBSTA/1996/MISC.2	Background documents for the workshop on mechanisms for inputs from non-governmental organizations
FCCC/SBSTA/1995/MISC.3 and Add.1	Establishment of intergovernmental technical advisory panels: comments from Parties

Documents related to the work of both the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation

FCCC/SB/1996/1 and Add.1	National communications from Parties included in Annex I to the Convention: elements of the second compilation and synthesis report
FCCC/SB/1996/2	National communications from Parties included in Annex I to the Convention: progress report on in-depth reviews

FCCC/SB/1996/3	National communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention: issues related to the preparation, compilation and consideration
FCCC/SBI/1996/5	Transfer of technology
FCCC/SBI/1996/8	Arrangements for the second session of the Conference of the Parties including elements for a provisional agenda

Other documents for the session

FCCC/SBSTA/1995/2	Proposed programme of work
FCCC/SBSTA/1995/3	Report of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice on the work of its first session held at Geneva from 28 August to 1 September 1995
FCCC/AGBM/1995/7	Report of the Ad Hoc Group on the Berlin Mandate on the work of its second session, held at Geneva from 30 October to 3 November 1995
FCCC/AGBM/1995/2	Report of the Ad Hoc Group on the Berlin Mandate on the work of its first session held at Geneva from 21 to 25 August 1995
FCCC/CP/1995/7 and Add.1	Report of the Conference of the Parties on its first session held at Berlin from 28 March to 7 April 1995
FCCC/SB/1995/INF.1	Division of labour between the subsidiary bodies established by the Convention
A/AC.237/55	Report of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Framework Convention on Climate Change on the work of its ninth session held at Geneva from 7 to 18 February 1994

Annex II

PROPOSED SCHEDULE OF WORK FOR THE SECOND SESSION OF THE SUBSIDIARY BODY FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE

	Tuesday 27 February	**Wednesday 28 February**	**Thursday 29 February**	**Friday 1 March**	**Monday 4 March**
10 a.m. to 1 p.m.	Items 1 2 4 (a) 4 (b)	Items 4 (a) 4 (b) 3	Items 6 5 (a) 5 (b)	Items 7 9 Any unresolved items	Items 8 10
3 p.m. to 6 p.m.	Informal consultations		Informal consultations	Informal consultations	

(The items of the provisional agenda are listed below.)

Other meetings relevant to the work of the SBSTA:

- Formal meetings of the SBI will be held in the afternoons of the days shown in the above schedule. The SBI may hold informal meetings in the mornings, in parallel with meetings of the SBSTA.

- The AGBM will hold informal workshops in the afternoons of 28 February and 4 March, in parallel with meetings of the SBI.

- On 26 February, the Group of 77 and China will convene a workshop on the preparation of national communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention (relevant to agenda item 5 (b)).

- On 2 March, a workshop will be held on mechanisms for inputs by non-governmental organizations (relevant to agenda item 8).

Items of the provisional agenda:

1. Opening of the session.

2. Organizational matters:

   (a) Adoption of the agenda;

   (b) Organization of the work of the session.

3. Establishment of intergovernmental technical advisory panel(s).

4. Scientific assessments:

   (a) Consideration of the Second Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC);

   (b) Cooperation with the IPCC.

5. National communications:

   (a) Communications from Parties included in Annex I to the Convention:

      (i) Progress report on in-depth reviews;
      (ii) Elements of the second compilation and synthesis report (technical aspects);
      (iii) Report on guidelines for the preparation of communications.

   (b) Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention: issues related to the preparation of communications.

6. Activities implemented jointly under the pilot phase.

7. Technology inventory and assessment.

8. Workshop on mechanisms for inputs by non-governmental organizations.

9. Longer term activities.

10. Report on the session.

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